

**WHATCOM COUNTY
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**

County Courthouse
311 Grand Avenue, Suite #108
Bellingham, WA 98225-4082



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CITY OF SEATTLE
Pete Kremen
County Executive

2006 MAY -3 PM 4:28

ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF WASHINGTONVia Facsimile & U.S. Mail

May 3, 2006

The Honorable Robert McKenna
Attorney General
State of Washington
PO Box 40100
Olympia, WA 98504-0100

CCTN # 71839Date Assigned 5/3/06Assignee: Hunter Goodmancc: CP - Shannon Smith
Rob McKenna

Dear Attorney General McKenna:

I respectfully request that you look into the considerable difference of gasoline prices in Whatcom County versus that of other areas in western Washington.

For quite some time, the cost at our local pumps has been significantly higher than all other areas in the state. It concerns me that our prices have been, on average, at least 10¢ more per gallon than Seattle and 15¢ more per gallon than Tacoma. It is difficult to accept these discrepancies in light of the fact that the product is manufactured here in Whatcom County at the BP (the State's largest refinery) and Conoco refineries, both located at Cherry Point.

This is an extremely important issue for our community. The rate of 10¢ more per gallon in our area equates to Whatcom County citizens paying an additional \$8 million per year for the same product that consumers in King County receive. For obvious reasons, this glaring difference significantly adversely affects our local economy, not to mention is inequitable to our residents.

Although the BP and Conoco refineries are extremely important to our local economy, providing hundreds of high-paying jobs and are good corporate citizens making their presence here highly valued, I feel pricing explanations are warranted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Kremen".

Pete Kremen
County Executive

PK/d

cc: Governor Christine Gregoire